

I. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 32-34, 37-39, and 47-54 are pending in the application. Claims 32 and 37 are independent.

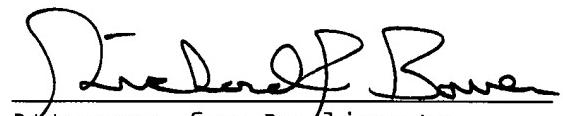
Claims 32-34, 37-39, and 47-54, were rejected as being unpatentable over Spauer '074, Rydberg, Lee, and Spauer '514 for the reasons discussed on pages 2-6 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

Without conceding the propriety of the stated rejections, Applicants submit herewith a Rule 131 Declaration by co-inventors Nathanson and Nader to antedate U.S. Patent No. 6,360,257 to Rydberg, and U.S. Patent No. 6,535,493 to Lee. Thus, the rejections of independent Claims 32 and 37 (and their dependent claims) have been overcome.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in  
our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507.  
All correspondence should be directed to our address given  
below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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